**A Reflection on “Spotlight”**

The movie “Spotlight” offers a realistic portrayal and profound insight into the journalism industry, revealing core principles and skills of journalism.

In the movie, the journalists applied numerous journalistic principles while editing news. Regarding finding newsworthy story ideas, the Boston Globe’s “Spotlight” team initially began with individual cases when looking into the child sexual abuse by priests. However, as they delved deeper, they discovered that both the number of victims and the priests involved were greater than imagined. They also uncovered the cover-up and of such behavior by the church hierarchy, realizing that exposing the systemic corruption within the entire church would hold greater social significance and news value. Thus, they decided to report on the entire church, even though it would be much more challenging. This process fully illustrates the acuity and sense of responsibility of journalists in seeking news value. According to the criteria we’ve learned for judging news value, namely impact, proximity, conflict, prominence, timeliness, human interest, and novelty, the case of child sexual abuse by priests has high news value itself. However, by shifting the report focus to the exposure of the systemic corruption within the church, the journalists emphasized the news value of conflict, prominence, and novelty, making the news even more socially valuable and influential.

The journalists’ approach to conducting interviews also inspired me greatly. The interview between journalist Michael Rezendes and lawyer Mitch Garabedian left a particularly strong impression on me. Initially, Mitch Garabedian was reluctant to cooperate with the Boston Globe’s interview, as his past experiences led him to doubt that the journalists’ report would make any difference. However, Michael’s persistence and expression of working for the “Spotlight” section changed Mitch Garabedian’s mind. Moved by the high-quality reporting of this section, Mitch Garabedian chose to collaborate, building connection between the journalists and the victims. In subsequent interviews, Michael Rezendes also demonstrated a high level of professionalism. As we’ve learned in class, interview techniques include the use of open-ended questions and sensitive questioning, both of which were employed by Michael in his interviews. By asking appropriate questions, he avoided putting too much pressure on victims, showing his respect and understanding for them. Michael Rezendes’s professionalism helped him successfully obtain key information, thus effectively advance the investigation.

Personally, I interned at a newspaper a few months ago, during which I was forced to cover up bigger issues while reporting on a social problem, and to use inappropriate exaggeration to gain more attention， which left me really disappointed with the journalism industry. However, after watching this film, I regained my vision of what a journalist should be like. The “Spotlight” journalists bravely used journalism to expose scandals and promote social justice and change, and this spirit of adhering to the truth and taking social responsibility is, in my opinion, the core value of journalists. It inspired us to pursue the truth and defend justice.